

## Police Prep or Pols

acing prospect of two political conventions in one summer, Miami Beach police chief Rocky Pomerance is beefing up his software. Determined to prevent a replay of Chicago '68, Pomerance asked humanistic psychologist Denis O'Donovan to lead a team to put 300-member police force through intensive human relations training. . . Weekly sessions, starting early this year, have ranged from Constitutional law and civil rights to creative crowd control, O'Donovan tells BT. Techniques include simulation, meetings with protest leaders, role playing. . . During one role switch, an officer, asked what he would do if he were a shrink, responded: "I'd take careful notes and write a book." O'Donovan is taking careful notes, plans to write book. He's at Florida Atlantic U., Boca Raton 33432.

## Research Tips or Crime Fighters

esearchers met enforcers at Justice Dept.-sponsored symposium on law enforcement science and technology last week in Washington, D.C. Challenge to enforcers: use behavioral knowledge to stem crime and improve corrections.

Explanations of prison violence that ignore social fabric of prison won't work, U. Illinois sociologist Edith Flynn told meeting. Prisons are run with tacit consent of inmates, and administrators know it. Any change that disrupts intricate, informal social relations between inmates and staff raise odds of violence, whether changes increase control or reform. Flynn said her analysis is no excuse for status quo, but a plea for change management. She urged officials to read new model guidelines on inmate rights from Illinois Dept. of Corrections. Write her for paper and info at Soc. Dept., U. of Illinois, Urbana 61801.

Yale sociologist Albert Reiss, who has studied police crime or some time, urged cops to stop focusing on criminals, start focusing on crime and to become professional. Among its tips, environmental prevention: tell retailers shoplifting isn't a crime unless merchants take steps to protect merchandise. "If people will buy on impulse, they'll steal on impulse," where merchandise is out for grabs.

Psychologist Saleem Shah, head of NIMH Center for Study of Crime and Delinquency, urged using research to divert kids from corrections. He plugged completed first phase of study by sociologist Marvin Wolfgang, at U. Penn., for important policy clues. Wolfgang tracked all 10,000 boys born in Philadelphia in 1955 to get first sophisticated probability analysis of delinquency. Of group, 3,500 had one recorded run-in with law; almost half had no further trouble. Six percent were chronic offenders, accounting for more than half of all delinquent acts of the total group. Question, said Shah, is how to invest energy and money for intervention (Wolfgang suggests after third offense). Study also shows no graduation seriousness of offenses. U. Chicago Press will publish study, *Delinquency in a Birth Cohort*, in June. Wolfgang is now working on second phase, taking sample of original group at age 18.

## Psychiatrists Pan Shrink Power

Two NIMH psychiatrists have blasted the Amer. Psychiatric Assn.'s stand on mental health coverage under national health insurance as unworkable, self-serving, inappropriate to delivering adequate care and sure to bankrupt the mental health service system. . . In a private position paper to be sent to key members of Congress, E. Fuller Torrey and Robert Taylor claim APA's demand for extensive hospitalization benefits and for recognition of psychiatrists as chief care providers not only would raise costs but also would create a superficial manpower shortage, enabling psychiatrists to sluff off difficult cases. The stand also ignores research on mental health treatment, Torrey and Taylor assert.

In brief, they maintain that hospitalization is less effective than cheap alternatives—day-care and walk-in services—and that psychiatrists are no more effective than psychologists and other pros. To back up contention, they propose financial restrictions on use of psychiatrists in insurance-paid psychotherapy and other non-medical services.

Paper is bound to stir interest in House and Senate health subcommittees, especially Senate subcommittee, where one temporary staffer is psychiatrist Joseph Perpitch. In deference to past requests from NIMH director Bertram Brown, please write Taylor, for position paper at his home address: 5001 White Flint St., Kensington, Md. 20755.)

## Glimpse at Nader's NIMH Report

Ralph Nader already is getting letters from mental health pros scared silly that the forthcoming Nader Raider exposé of the mental health complex will hurt business. According to Nader ace Franklin Chu, chief investigator on the study, brief talks by Nader folks at recent meetings have stirred up justified fears that NIMH and mental health pros are in for a drubbing. . . Fears were fueled even more by limited circulation of a content summary that may bear only historical interest by the time the report comes out (best estimates now are for summer release).

■ Main issue will be neglect of the consumer. The rest will be icing, but the icing has pros trembling. Examples the summary include:

■ Portrayal of mental health complex as mental health mafia, founded and fad by combination of professional self-interest, congressional sugar daddies and a powerful health lobby.

■ Argument that, like it or not, what's needed for mental health is not pros and programs but better jobs, housing and social support mechanisms.

■ Dirty details of elitism, cronyism and power-playing at NIMH, at universities and in professions that have little to do with delivering mental goods.

■ Charge of over-emphasis on research and expensive services and claims of over-abundance of low quality research, lack of research direction and dearth of direct problem research.

Worst of all, report will give general impression that mental health pros are no better or worse than other pros and that Nat'l Institute of Mental Health officials are very much like other government bureaucrats.







